

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004435

International filing date (day/month/year)
20.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
24.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A61B5/00, A61B3/10

Applicant
LEIN APPLIED DIAGNOSTICS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004435

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
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Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. ☐ It has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim because a copy of the priority document was not available to the ISA at the time that the search was conducted (Rule 17.1). This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004435

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 48,49

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 48,49 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 48,49

☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004435

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-6,8,12,15,16,20-47
	No: Claims	1,7,9-11,13,14,17-19
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	2-6,8,12,15,16,20-47
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	13-19,34-47
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

Claims 48 and 49 of the present application do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because their scope and subject-matter are not clearly defined. No opinion will be drafted on these claims.

Re Item V.

1. The following documents are referred to in this communication:
D1 : US 5 582 168 A (YU NAI T ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10)
D2 : US 6 226 089 B1 (HAKAMATA KAZUO) 1 May 2001 (2001-05-01)
D3 : EP 0 722 692 A (HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO) 24 July 1996 (1996-07-24)
2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1
 - 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

A method of measuring an apparent depth of a section of an eye, the section being defined by first and second interfaces, comprising the steps of:
 - a) focusing light to a measurement location proximate or within the eye (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 1);
 - b) scanning the measurement location through the section (column 6, lines 10-25);
 - c) detecting reflected light from the measurement location as the measurement location passes through the first and the second interfaces and generating a signal representative of the detected light (column 5, lines 12-26); and
 - d) deriving from the signal apparent positions of the first and second interfaces (column 5, lines 12-26).
3. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 13

The same reasoning applies mutatis-mutandis to apparatus claim 13. Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 13 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

4. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 7, 9-11, 14 and 17-19

Dependent claims 7, 9-11, 14 and 17-19 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

5. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-6, 8, 12, 15 and 16

The combination of the features of dependent claims 2-6, 8, 12, 15 and 16 seem neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art.

6. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 20 and 34

Claims 20 and 34 appear to be new and inventive over the available prior art, because the prior art documents do not teach the direction of the incident and the reflected lights towards a first and second reference locations.

6.1 Claims 21-33 and 35-47 are dependent on claims 13, 20 and 34 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.